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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1946

H. Pincombe & Son, Printers, Maiden Street, Barnstaple.

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

July, 1947.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Elliott and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1946.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., Barnstaple.

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List of Staff.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

R. COOPE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Miss D. BOLT Clerk.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	2,396
Population (Registrar General figures) ...	15,810
Inhabited Houses	4,461
Rateable Value	£108·992
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£454

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	167	143	310
	Illegitimate	11	15	26
				336

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population ... ... 21·25

		Males	Females	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	6	4	Total 11
	Illegitimate	1	0	

RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 31·7

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	106	126	232

DEATH RATE per 1,000 ... ... 14·67

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple ...	21·25	0·69	14·67	12	0
England and Wales ...	19·1	0·53	11·5	43	4·4

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the quinquenial rates from 1914 to 1943 inclusive, and the rate for 1944, 1945 and 1946:—

1914—1918	71·90
1919—1923	57·46
1924—1928	68·08
1929—1933	44·19
1934—1938	59·91
1939—1943	48·71
1944	29·60
1945	68·70
1946	12·0

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	1	1

Rate per 1,000 live births	12·0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	9·7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	38·4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	0

Deaths over 65 years

65—69 ...	36	80—84 ...	34
70—74 ...	27	85—89 ...	17
75—79 ...	32	90—94 ...	6
		95 ...	1

Total 153

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1941	4	6	33	7
1942	3	5	35	12
1943	6	7	34	5
1944	1	10	26	6
1945	1	8	22	6
Average	3	7·2	30	7·2
1946	3	9	23	14

The following table gives the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever notified in the Borough compared with previous years :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Para Typhoid.
1940 ...	19	77	2	0
1941 ...	27	80	0	3
1942 ...	9	100	0	0
1943 ...	29	12	1	1
1944 ..	23	6	1	15*
1945 ...	8	3	0	2†
1946 ...	6	0	1	1‡

* 12 of these cases attributed to a source of infection outside the district.

† Both cases were admitted to the North Devon Infirmary from the Rural District.

‡ Contracted outside the Borough.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

The immunisation of children was continued during the year. 239 were treated as follows:—

Immunised under 5 years of age,	5 years and over, but under 15 years,
152.	87.

The material used for treatment was A.P.T. Two injections were given. at four weekly intervals. In addition 1,077 reinforcement injections were given to children who had been immunised prior to 1943.

Scabies.

105 cases were treated at the Cleansing Station in the old Isolation Hospital up to the end of October against 319 for whole of last year. The Benzyl Benzoate treatment was used, and the work was carried out efficiently by the two female and one male nurse from St. John Ambulance Brigade. Cases of Scabies from the Barnstaple Rural District were also treated at the Centre. The number of treatments given is as follows :—

Adults	Males	22	58	**Children**	Males	19	47
	Females	36			Females	28	

Of the above cases 18 adults and 18 children came from the Barnstaple Rural District.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

No provision is made by the Local Authority. Three district nurses are provided by voluntary organisations.

Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves the town as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter and continue to be of greatest service to the Borough and the Medical Profession.

The V.D. Clinic.

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annex.
Sessions—

Females.	Thursdays,	4.45 p.m.	Males.	Thursdays,	5.45 p.m.
	Fridays,	3.30 p.m.		Fridays,	4.30 p.m.

Ambulance Services.

There is a motor ambulance stationed at Bideford for the removal of infectious cases.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to be of great service to the Borough and surrounding district.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				1
5—10		1	1	
10—15				
15—20		1	1	
20—25		1		
25—35	1	3		
35—45	2	1		1
45—55	3	1		1
55—65				
65 and over	1			
Totals	7	8	2	3

Age Periods	Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10		1		
10—15				
15—20		1		
20—25				
25—35	2	3		
35—45	1			
45—55		2		
55—65	1			1
65 and over	2			
Totals	6	7		1

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in 1946 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningococcal Meningitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Typhoid	Paratyphoid	Malaria	Admitted to Hospital				Deaths
												Scarlet Fever	Typhoid	Paratyphoid	Menin-cococcal Meningitis	Pneumonia
Under 1 year		1		1				1								3
1 to 2 years				1												
2 to 3 years				1				2		1				1		1
3 to 4 years								4								
4 to 5 years	1						1					1				
5 to 10 years	3					1	2	1	1			2	1			
10 to 15 years																
15 to 20 years	1			1			1									
20 to 35 years	1			3	1	1					1				1	
35 to 45 years			2													
45 to 65 years			5	2												3
65 years & over				2												2
TOTAL ...	6	1	7	11	1	2*	4	8	1	1†	1‡	3	1	1†	1*	9
NORTH WARD	3		5	5			1	6		1						
SOUTH WARD	3	1	2	6	1	2	3	2	1		1					

† Paratyphoid. Contracted outside the Borough.

* Menincococcal Meningitis. One case admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Lynton.

‡ Case admitted to North Devon Infirmary.

Causes of Death during the Year 1946

Causes of Death	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0
Influenza ...	1	2
Measles	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesphagus (Males) and Uterus (Females)	1	4
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	0	1
Cancer of Breast	0	4
Cancer of all other sites	6	7
Diabetes	0	1
Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	10	15
Heart Disease	29	37
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	7	7
Bronchitis	4	6
Pneumonia	6	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis	2	0
Other Digestive Diseases	5	2
Nephritis	4	2
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0
Premature Birth	0	0
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	1	1
Suicide	3	3
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1
Other Violent Causes	2	4
All other Causes	15	18
All Causes	106	126

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenæum for the following information :–

Barometer. Highest reading 30·7 ins. Lowest reading 28·8 ins.

Temperature. Maximum 78° 28th September. Minimum 19° 21st December. Mean for the year 50·0°

Rainfall. 40·22 ins. Average preceding 10 years 33·65 ins. No. of days on which ·01 ins. or more of rain fell, 187.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

The Castle,
Barnstaple,
July, 1947.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Elliott and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my twenty-sixth Annual Report on the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during 1946.

In January Mr. R. Coope, from Bristol, commenced his duties as additional Sanitary Inspector and it gives me great pleasure to report that he is a very capable officer and his work during the year has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Miss Bolt continues her duties in the efficient way in which all her work is characterised. To each I express appreciation and thanks.

In a report such as this one cannot draw up a balance sheet and make reference to a beautifully constructed building, a nicely repaired road, a new water scheme or an improved electricity supply. The work of a Health Department is not revealed in £ s. d. and for that reason there is nothing spectacular about it. The general health of the community, the non-existence of serious infectious diseases and the longer years of living are factors which make up, so to speak, the "yard stick' and are now taken for granted by the majority without knowing the reason. The day by day vigilance of the department does much to bring about this state of affairs.

The total number of visits made was 4,273. Complaints were 167 and they were investigated and action taken where necessary. Nuisances were abated at 110 premises.

29,474 carcases were examined at the public abattoir, and 68½ tons of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption. In addition 4 tons of other food stuffs were found unfit.

It was found necessary to serve 3 statutory notices under the Public Health Act and these were complied with without the necessity of legal proceedings.

3 samples of town water were taken for bacteriological examination and in each case B. Coli absent in 100 ml.

2 samples of swimming bath water were examined and found satisfactory.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

During the year a new Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter was purchased and this No. 3 vehicle commenced working on 24th October. The renewals fund, which has been built up over many years by including in each year's estimates the sum of £100, had reached a total of £2,000. It was necessary to make some alterations to the Depôt to house an additional vehicle and the expense involved together with the cost of the freighter was met from this fund, leaving a substantial balance in hand.

No. 1	Vehicle had,	during	15 years,	travelled	74,031·7	miles.
No. 2	,,	,,	11	,,	60,596·6	,,
No. 3	,,	,,	5 months	,,	1,830·8	,,

The old vehicle will now be kept in reserve.

The figures in connection with the financial year ended March, 1947, include three vehicles.

The offal from the public abattoir has now to be removed by the Local Authority each day and during the year, the cost was £139, and this amount has been deducted from the Refuse Collection costs. The number of bins of material removed to the refuse tip was 4,537. weighing approximately 220 tons.

The approximate amount of refuse collected during the year, based on test weighings, was 3,700 tons House Refuse and 691 tons of Trade Refuse, representing about 15 cwts. of house refuse per house per year.

During the year the following figures were returned.

Vehicle	Loads of House Refuse	Loads of Trade Refuse	Loads of Slaughter-house Offal	Miles Travelled	Gallons of Petrol used	Miles per Gallon
1	466	277	163	2871·1	510½	5·62
2	1274		45	5033·8	1151½	4·46
3	256	228	114	1830·8	341½	5·36
	1996	505	322	9735·7	2003½	

		COSTS Estimate	COSTS Actual
		£	£
S.D. Freighter		1152	1224
Refuse Collection		1066	842
		2218	2066
Disposal and Salvage		1170	1346
Total	...	3388	3412

INCOME Trade Refuse Estimate £	Actual £
200	248
Salvage	
300	850

The year actually consisted of 53 weeks and with the expenditure up by £24 and the income up by £598 the net cost of this service was £2,314

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	80	5	2	0	518	1	11
Newsprint ..	3	18	3	0	41	6	6
Books	15	3	2	0	140	7	4
Bonus (Ministry of Supply)					31	16	6
Lead				18		4	11
Copper				23		9	3
Brass			2	4		11	4
Aluminium ...				6		1	4
Iron	1	1	2	0	2	13	9
Textiles—							
Rags ...	1	17	0	9	33	7	0
Rough Rags ...		3	2	13	1	5	3
Woollens ...			2	25	2	8	2
Bagging ...		6	3	22	1	7	8
Cord ...		15	0	14	3	8	6
Bones	2	10	3	3	13	19	7
Bottles 4184 } ...	1	16	3	27	24	17	3
Jars 9327 } ...	3	3	3	15	32	14	6
Miscellaneous ...		1	2	1	1	0	3
	111	6	3	12	£850	1	0

Approximately **250 tons** of kitchen waste were collected in the Borough by pig keepers.

Meat and Food Inspection

1,178 visits of inspection were made to premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption.

92,474 Food Animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Council's Public Abattoir. In addition the following were brought in dressed for inspection :—

Cows, 4. Calves, 3. Pigs, 22. Sheep, 372.

The following tables show the numbers of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir, together with comparative figures for the last five years :—

Beasts (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1671	1573	3217	22456	557

Year	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
1942	3842	1324	26631	700	32497
1943	4400	2759	29678	548	37385
1944	4990	3202	34659	1152	44003
1945	3745	3223	24698	937	32603
1946	3244	3217	22456	557	29474

10 Licenses were issued to slaughtermen.

The following cases of whole carcases condemned as being affected with Generalised Tuberculosis were reported to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Health Division.

8 Cows. 2 Heifers. 1 Steer. 5 Calves.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation:

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Beef	... 143	67 Generalised Tuberculosis
		14 Tuberculosis with Emaciation
		1 Fevered
		2 Septicæmia
		11 Dropsy and Emaciation
		4 Dropsy
		22 Johne's Disease and Emaciation
		1 Pleurisy and Emaciation
		1 Jaundice and Peritonitis
		1 Decomposition
		1 Septic Pericarditis
		1 Pleurisy and Peritonitis
		1 Peritonitis and Inflammation
		10 Inflammatory Condition
		1 Injury
		1 Carcinoma
		2 Moribund
		1 Quarter Evil
		1 Gangrenous Septicæmia
Fore Quarters of Beef	... 44	42 Tuberculosis (36 carcases)
		2 Pneumonia & Pleurisy (1 carcase)
Hind Quarters of Beef	... 8	4 Tuberculosis (2 carcases)
		1 Injury
		1 Peritonitis
		2 Inflammation & Dropsy (1 carcase)
Shoulders of Beef	... 1	1 Tuberculosis
Cows Heads	... 152	128 Tuberculosis
		41 Actinomycosis
		9 Abscess
		1 Dropsy
Beef ...	... 162 lbs	Abscess
	1573 lbs	Tuberculosis
	27 lbs	Dropsy
	1749 lbs	Injury
	8 lbs	Nephritis
	690 lbs	Inflammation
	24 lbs	Cysts
	101 lbs	Various
Carcases of Veal	... 28	1 Medicine Taint
		3 Inflammatory Condition
		4 Joint ill
		3 Jaundice
		5 Dropsy, &c.
		4 Tuberculosis
		3 Immature
		1 Nephritis
		1 Septic Pneumonia
		2 Moribund
		1 Fevered

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Veal ...	... 24 lbs	Injury
	131 lbs	Various
	1 Head	Tuberculosis
Carcases of Mutton	... 422	144 Emaciation and Dropsy
		38 Inflammatory Condition
		80 Moribund
		11 Peritonitis
		9 Medicine Taint
		1 Pleurisy and Peritonitis
		38 Anæmia and Dropsy
		7 Septicæmia
		2 Pneumonia
		8 Decomposition
		6 Uræmia
		8 Injury
		4 Anæmia Emaciation
		50 Dropsical, &c.
		2 General Congestion
		1 Fevered
		1 Septic Peritonitis
		6 Septic Pneumonia
		2 Jaundice
		1 Nephritis
		2 General Anæmia
		1 Pyæmia
Mutton ...	... 996 lbs	Injury
	719 lbs	Pleurisy
	103 lbs	Abscess
	211 lbs	Peritonitis
	439 lbs	Dropsy
	731 lbs	Inflammation
	428 lbs	Pneumonia
	507 lbs	Dystokia
	75 lbs	Bruising
	96 lbs	Various
Carcases of Pork	... 12	4 Generalised Tuberculosis
		1 Peritonitis and Inflammation
		1 Nephritis and Dropsy
		1 Uræmia and Dropsy
		1 Fevered
		1 Emaciation and Dropsy
		1 Decomposition
		1 Swine Erysipelas
		1 Septicæmia
Pork ...	... 54 lbs	Injury
	54 lbs	Tuberculosis
	86 lbs	Various
Pigs Heads	... 36	35 Tuberculosis
		1 Abscess
Offals ...	...58578 lbs	Various

Article		No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation	
Also	Beef	346 lbs	Bone Taint, &c.	
	Mutton ...	80 lbs	,, ,, ,,	
	Pork	48 lbs	Various	
Food in Tins	Milk ...	138 tins	Blown, &c.	Weight 4873 lbs
	Fish	143 ,,	,,	
	Vegetables	185 ,,	,,	
	Fruit	17 ,,	,,	
	Meat, &c.	724 ,,	,,	
	Jam	24 ,,	,,	
	Various	6 ,,	,,	
Grape Fruit ...		14 lbs	Various	
Lemon Curd ...		18 lbs	,,	
Turnips ...		392 lbs	,,	
Raisins ...		50 lbs	,,	
Dates ...		19 lbs	,,	
Pudding Mixture		36 lbs	,,	
Apricots ...		28 lbs	,,	
Tea ...		11 lbs	,,	
Biscuits ...		77 lbs	,,	
Sweets ...		14 lbs	,,	
Cheese ...		20 lbs	,,	
Fish ...		4302 lbs	Decomposition	
Various ...		45 lbs	,,	

The following table shows the amount of meat condemned at the Public Abattoir separating Tuberculosis from other diseases and conditions :—

	Tuberculosis	Other Conditions
Beef ...	42237 lbs.	27710 lbs.
Offals ...	18586 ,,	27020 ,,
Veal ...	162 ,,	1298 ,,
Offals ...	98 ,,	466 ,,
Pork ...	1511 ,,	815 ,,
Offals ...	594 ,,	239 ,,
Mutton ...	...	20498 ,,
Offals ...	...	11575 ,,
Totals ...	Meat 43910 lbs. Offals 19278 ,,	Meat 50321 lbs. Offals 39300 ,,

The following table gives particulars of offals condemned :—

		Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Livers	Fluke	555	...	1955	2
	Abscesses	51	2	96	2
	Cavernous Angioma	75	...	...	...
	Necrosis	...	...	1	...
	Cysts	2	...	18	2
	Fatty	17	1	280	1
	Cirrhosis	43	3	28	9
	Parasitic Abscesses	6	...	680	...
	Congestion	1	...	35	...
	Various	6	...	27	...
Portions of Livers	Fluke	1046	...	...	...
	Cavernous Angioma	5	...	...	...
	Abscesses	24	...	...	...
	Cirrhosis	17	...	...	...
Lungs	Parasites	6	...	226	...
	Pneumonia	9	...	29	2
	Pleurisy	35	4	46	6
	Abscesses	47	2	12	...
	Emphysema	22	1	...	...
	Congestion	6	...	46	4
	Inflammation	4	...	1	2
Plucks	Pleurisy	...	...	35	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	24	...
	Parasites	...	...	45	...
	Congestion	...	...	35	...
	Inflammation	...	...	14	...
	Abscesses	...	...	14	...

The following shows the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

	Cows	Heifers	Oxen	Calves
Whole Carcases—T.B. only ...	49	11	7	4
T.B. with emaciation	13	...	1	...
Forequarter and lungs ...	4	...	1	...
,, lungs, liver and head ...	4	2	3	...
,, lungs, liver and skirt ...	5	...	...	...
,, lungs and liver ..	1	...	...	...
,, lungs, liver, head and stomach	8	2	4	...
,, lungs and head ...	5	...	...	...
,, lungs, liver and stomach	6	...	..	...
,, lungs, skirt and stomach	2	...	2	...
Part forequarter and skirt ...	1	1	...	...
Hindquarter, head and lungs ...	...	...	2	...
,, lungs and liver ...	...	...	1	...
Part hindquarter, lungs, liver & skirt	1	...	...	...
Head	26	14	12	...
Head and lungs	27	5	8	1
Head, lungs and liver	5	...	...	...
Head, lungs and stomach ...	3	...	...	...
Head, lungs, liver, skirt and stomach	22	4	2	...
Head and liver	2	3	...	...
Shoulder and lungs ...	...	...	1	...
Lungs	130	19	12	...
Lungs and liver	3	1	...	...
Lungs, liver and stomach ...	10	3	1	...
Lungs and stomach ...	3	...	...	...
Liver ...	4	1	...	1
Liver and stomach ...	...	...	1	...
Stomach ...	2	1	1	...
Pluck	...	...	...	3

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse	68	4	1	13
,, ,, ,, Shops ...	...	6	2	22
Fish	1	18	1	16
Food in tins	2	3	1	29
Other Food	...	6	1	24
	72	19	1	20

Of the 68 tons 14 cwts. 1 qr. 13 lb. condemned at the Slaughterhouse, 35 tons 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 18 lbs. came from casualty carcases.

980 meat condemnation certificates and 253 other food condemnation forms were issued in connection with the above.

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1671	1573	3217	22456	557
,, brought in dressed ...		4	3	372	22
Number inspected	1671	1577	3220	22828	579
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	12	50	24	422	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	820	980	50	3970	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	49·79%	65·31%	2·29%	19·24%	11·05%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	20	61	4	...	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	105	264	5	...	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7·48%	20·60%	·28%	...	10·53%

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

The following list shows the number of Cowsheds and Dairies within the Borough, together with the number of retailers and wholesale producers of milk.

Retailers who have Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough	18
Retailers with Dairy only—non producers ...	8
Retailers whose premises are situated outside the Borough	16
Retailers with Dairy within the district and who have Cowsheds outside	4
Retailer without a Dairy—non producer ..	1
Wholesale producers with Cowshed and Dairy ..	2
Wholesale producer with Cowshed outside the district, but with Dairy in the Borough ...	1

344 Inspections were made to the 20 Cowsheds and 30 Dairies situated within the Borough. Limewashing is carried out during the months of May and October, and the premises are found to be maintained in a clean condition.

1196 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination by the standard method known as the "resazurin test," and placed in the categories A good keeping quality, B moderate, and C. poor.

The following is an analysis :—

	A.	B.	C.	Total.
Town produced	339	36	14	389
Produced outside	696	67	44	807

It is regretted that some dairymen continue to smoke during the delivery of milk. To draw milk from a churn whilst smoking a cigarette is not in keeping with the advancement which is being made in the production of clean milk.

The examination of these samples is carried out at the Area Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture in Barnstaple. The town produced samples are taken by your Sanitary Inspectors and the outside samples by the staff of the Laboratory. We are greatly indebted to Miss Smithson and her staff for all the help received in connection with this work. Miss Smithson is always willing to give advice and assistance in connection with the investigation of unsatisfactory samples and for this our thanks are again accorded to her.

19 samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken for examination, 17 passed the required test and 2 failed.

24 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were submitted for examination and 5 failed to pass.

21 accredited samples were tested and 9 failed to pass the required test.

These samples are examined at the County Laboratory at Exeter. We are grateful to the County Bacteriologist for all the examinations carried out at the laboratory not only in connection with routine samples of milk, but for the information so freely given about other foodstuffs.

Factories and Factory Workshops.

Inspections were carried out as follows :—

Tailoring 3	Chromium Plating 2	Cycle Repairing 3
Scale Making 2	Pottery 2	Sweet Making 1
Engineering 8	Joinery 4	Motor Repairs 3
Carpet Repairing 1	Upholsterer 2	Ice Cream 1
Engine Repairs 2	Printing 2	Furrier 2
Flour Processing 2	Gloving 2	Monumental Mason 1
Bakeries 65.	Lace Making 1	Plough Works 1

The following repairs and improvements were carried out :—

W.C. cleansed 1 Lavatory accommodation provided 2

Factory Chimney raised 1

Means of escape in case of fire certificate issued 1

Food and Drugs.

The following table shows the samples of milk taken during the year, with the results of their examination :—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	Inf'mal	Total	
New Milk ...	11		11	8 genuine, 3 not genuine No. 757 3% added water ,, 758 2% added water ,, 762 2% added water
New Milk, in course of delivery	4		4	2 genuine, 2 not genuine No. 751 10% added water ,, 752 3% added water
New Milk, appeal to cow	1		1	Deficient in fat—2·89%
Butter ...		1	1	Genuine
Ice Cream ..		9	9	See special table
	16	10	26	

In addition to the above 44 samples of milk were analysed at the office.

The genuine samples showed an average percentage of fat of 3·65%, and non fatty solids 8·92%.

Sample No. 751, taken in course of delivery, contained 3·79% fat and 7·65% solids not fat—10% added water.

Sample No. 752, also taken in course of delivery, showed 4·42% fat and 8·24% solids not fat—3% added water.

These samples were followed up the next morning by repeating the operation with the results :—

Sample No. 759, showing fat 4·8%, non fatty solids 9·1%.

Sample No. 760, showing fat 4·75%, non fatty solids 9·0%.

Legal proceedings were taken regarding samples Nos. 751 and 752 and convictions obtained. Fines imposed—£3 and £2, plus analyst's fees.

Sample 757 showed 3% added water.
" 758 " 2% " "
" 761 genuine.
" 762 showed 2% added water.

These last four samples were purchased from the same producer.

An "appeal to cow" sample showed fat 2·89%, non fatty solids 8·74%.

These results were somewhat conflicting and in consequence no legal action was taken.

Ice Cream.

Nine samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and 27 samples from 11 different producers were sent to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The results are set out in the table overleaf. With the exception of samples Nos. 772 and 777 the results are very unsatisfactory. Since no statutory standards of chemical or bacteriological purity have yet been fixed, only advisory action was taken.

Ice Cream.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS						BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS			
No.	Fat	Carbohydrates including Sugar and Cereal Starch	Protein	Saccharin	Total Solids	Plate Count 37° Fahrenheit	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue (Hours)	Presumptive Coliforms in one-tenth ml. (3 Tubes)	Faecal Coli. (3 Tubes)
767	2·41%	11·3%	2·44%	Present	16·15%	1. 160,000 2. 280,000 3. 110,000 4. 250,000	4½ 4 5½ 5	Absent Present 2 Tubes Absent Present 3 Tubes	
768	4·52%	18·8%	3·17%	Absent	25·77%	1. 350,000 2. 26,000 3. 30,000,000 4. 12,500	1½ 6 1½ 5½	Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes	Present 3 Tubes Present 1 Tube Present 3 Tubes Nil
769	1·81%	5·6%	4·06%	Present	11·47%	1. 11,000 2. 210 000	4 5½	Nil Present 3 Tubes	 Present 1 Tube
770	·28%	15·8%	3·62%	Present	19·70%	1. 1,250,000 2. 35,000 3. 1,000,000 4. 20,000	½ 4 4½ 7½	Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes Present 1 Tube	 Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes Absent
771	1·61% Not Butter Fat Soya Flour	8·2%	3·68%	Present	13·49%	1. 6,000 2. 1,100,000	½ 1	Present 3 Tubes Present 3 Tubes	Present Present
772	10·5%	20·1%	2·32%	Absent	32·92%	2000	7½	Present 1 Tube	
773	·25%	13·8%	5·9%	Present	19·95%	1. 8,000 2. 270,000	8 4	Absent Present 3 Tubes	Absent
774	·32%	14·1%	2·69%	Absent	17·07%	1. 580,000 2. 12,000,000	1 1	Present 2 Tubes Present 3 Tubes	 Present 2 Tubes
775	1·65%	11·7%	1·92%	Absent	15·27%	1. 100,000 2. 16,000	3 6	Present 3 Tubes Absent	
776						1. 1,170,000 2. 310,000 3. 15.000	½ 5½ 5	Present 1 Tube Present 3 Tubes Absent	
777						2,500	7½	Absent	

Housing.

During the year the erection of 50 Temporary Pre-fabricated Bungalows at Oakleigh Road and Barbican Lane was completed and occupied by 100 adults and 68 children. 80 traditional-type houses were commenced at Tresise's Field in the Derby Area and 62 Pre-fabricated concrete houses commenced at the Woodville Estate, which is situated at Sticklepath just outside the borough boundary. In addition to the temporary bungalows two houses at Derby and eight at Woodville were occupied. The total number of persons housed—adults 122, children 80.

Applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1946 were as follows:—

Forces cases in lodgings in the Borough ...	360
Civilians ,, ,, ...	97
Householders	184
Forces lodgings outside Borough	141
Civilians ,, ,, ...	37
Householders	89
Total	905

Visits re-applications for Council Houses ...	602
Visits re-occupants in houses scheduled for condemnation	254

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following cases were investigated :—

Para Typhoid	Scarlet Fever	Small Pox contact
3	6	1

The following fumigations were carried out :—

Scarlet Fever	Cancer
4	1

Verminous	Tuberculosis	Various
58	7	1

62 separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected, and the following is a list of the articles :—

Disinfection on behalf of	Mattresses	Pillows & Bolsters	Blankets	Other Articles	Total
Civilian Cases in town	17	16	16	10	59
Civilians outside town	55	99	56	0	210
Military ...	1	6	50	28	85
Evacuation ...	36	98	652	45	831
Scabies	0	4	76	527	607
Various	65	30	3	0	98
Totals	174	253	853	610	1890

In addition to the above 15 camp beds were sprayed for vermin (evacuation).

Water Supply.

The town is supplied with an unlimited water supply of excellent quality, both chemically and bacteriologically. Samples show B Coli absent in 100 ml.

With the exception of the 36 premises listed below every house is supplied with a direct main service.

Particulars of private supplies:—

Twenty nine premises supplied with deep well water.

Four premises from spring water carried direct to houses.

Three premises with private reservoir.

Rodent Disinfestation

Total number of premises visited in connection with actual or possible infestations ...	...	857
Number of premises treated ...	... ...	140
Instances where re-treatment found necessary	...	40
Total number of visits made ...	... ...	1273
Number of visits to treated premises	... ...	840
Mice — Premises treated ...	.. ...	19
Mice — Total visits ...	... ...	95

392 lbs. of sausage rusk used for preliminary baiting.

94 lbs. of poison bait used and at least 16 lbs. taken.

It is not possible to give the actual number of rats killed, but the figure would be at least 2,226. At least 203 bodies seen.

Mr. H. E. Williamson continues to carry out this work in a very satisfactory manner.

Amount received from owners of premises treated – £90 14s. 4d.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following store licenses were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	58
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium ...	4
Petroleum Spirit, Carbide, and Petroleum Mixtures	1
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures ...	3
Petroleum Mixtures	2
Carbide of Calcium	4
Total ...	72

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit ...	229,982 gallons
Carbide of Calcium ...	2,940 lbs.
Petroleum Mixtures ...	330 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licenses was £52 5s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of mixed explosives was 17.

A license was granted to store gunpowder and high explosives in a magazine.

The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations carried out during the year 1946

New sets of house drains laid		...	5
Drains repaired ...		...	16
Drains cleared ...		..	21
New soil pipes fixed ...		...	4
New vent pipes provided		...	4
New inspection chambers built		...	10
New fresh air inlets provided		...	1
New gullies fixed ...		...	12
New water closets built		...	5
New W.C. pans provided		...	36
New flushing cisterns fixed		...	7
Flushing cisterns repaired		...	2
Bath and wash up provided		...	2
Rain pipes repaired ...		...	2
Rooms cleansed ...		...	48
Plaster repaired	Internal 33	...	42
	External 9		
Ceilings renewed or repaired		...	18
Windows repaired ...		...	16
New windows fixed ...		...	4
New sash cords provided		...	1
Floors renewed ...		...	14
Staircase renewed or repaired		...	2
New scullery troughs provided		...	3
New scullery waste pipes fixed		...	7
Dampness remedied ...		...	6
Water service improved		...	2
Kitchen stoves repaired		...	12
Roofs repaired or renewed		...	31
Guttering renewed or repaired		...	16
Yards cemented ...		...	4
Yards repaired ...		...	3
Dust bins provided ...		...	10
Miscellaneous ...		...	28
Smoke and water tests applied to drains		...	37
Premises where nuisances abated ...		...	110
Vermin eradicated ...		...	12

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made		4273
Houses inspected, Public Health Act		178
Revisits		450
Houses visited re overcrowding		4
Visits to slaughterhouse and butchers' shops		831
Food preparing premises		29
Visits to other food shops		90
Bakehouses		65
Cowsheds inspected		137
Dairies inspected		207
Ice Cream premises		63
Piggeries inspected		7
Visits to refuse tip		53
Letters written	324	479
Letters re-housing	155	
Cards re housing applications		122
Statutory notices, Public Health Act		3
Informal Notices, Public Health Act		127
,, ,, ,, ,, Milk and Dairies		5
,, ,, Factories		6
Verbal notices		94

I wish to record thanks to each Member of the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees, and to all the Officials of the Corporation, for the support and consideration afforded to me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.